



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Task Statement: Standards for New Train Control Systems

Task No.: 97-6

Date presented to the RSAC: September 30, 1997

Purpose:

To facilitate the implementation of software based signal and operating systems by discussing potential revisions to the Rules, Standards and Instructions (49 CFR Part 236) to address processor-based technology and communication-based operating architectures.

Description:

Consider potential revisions per “purpose” statement above. Include consideration of the following:

- Disarrangement of microprocessor-based interlockings.
- Performance standards for positive train control (PTC) systems at various levels of functionalities (safety-related capabilities).
- Procedures for introduction and validation of new systems.

The Committee may also consider conforming changes to related regulations (e.g., 49 CFR Parts 233, 234, and 235), as appropriate.

Sources:

FRA Report to Congress entitled “*Railroad Communications and Train Control*” (July 1994) and issues developed in signal and train control technical resolution committee.

Refer to/establish following working group:

~~PTC Standards Working Group~~ [PTC Working Group](#) |

Coordination:

~~Coordinate effort with PTC Implementation Working Group to ensure consistent nomenclature and common understanding of technologies under review.~~

Target dates:

Working group progress report: ~~December 1, 1997.~~ [January 27, 1998.](#) |
If deemed appropriate, report consensus NPRM to full Committee: March 1, 1998.

Disposition: Accepted

Date: [September 30, 1997.](#) |